

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY NEA:A:GLASPIE

APPROVED BY W BRUBECK

S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 056165

NODIS

FOR ATHERTON USDEL

FOL RPT AMMAN 2013 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 02 MAR 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T AMMAN 2013

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, JO, US

SUBJECT: COURT CHIEF SHARAF - HUSSEIN VISIT TO US

1. SHARAF ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT ABOUT A VISIT BY HUSSEIN TO
WASHINGTON TO SEE THE PRESIDENT SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT MY OWN PERSONAL
VIEW WAS THAT KING HAD JUST SEEN PRESIDENT IN TEHRAN AND INDEED
SEVERAL TIMES OVER PAST YEAR, THAT KING DID NOT INDICATE TO
ME ANY DESIRE FOR A VISIT, AND THAT ANY VISIT SHOULD BE RELATED
TO PROCESS OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN TO FACT THAT FOR
LAST FEW YEARS KING HAD REGULARLY VISITED WASHINGTON IN THE
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SPRING. I ADDED THAT IF THERE WERE REAL PROGRESS IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS TO THE POINT WHERE IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR
JORDAN TO JOIN THEN SUCH CONTACTS MIGHT BE USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE.
ALTERNATIVELY, IF THERE WERE SOME KIND OF STALEMATE AND
A NEW STRATEGY HAD TO BE EXPLORED THE TWO LEADERS MIGHT ALSO
WISH TO MEET. I ASKED IF HE HAD ANY SENSE THAT HUSSEIN WANTED
A MEETING.

3. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE THAT FEELING AND INDICATED GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE IDEA THAT A VISIT SHOULD BE MORE CONDITIONED ON PROGRESS AND SUBSTANCE THAN ON A ROUTINE SCHEDULE. HE ASKED ABOUT THE ANNUAL MILITARY TALKS AND I SAID THAT WE WERE AIMING FOR MID-MAY.

4. I HAD HOPED THAT THIS SUBJECT WOULD NOT COME UP BEFORE ROY ATHERTON'S VISIT AND THE OPPORTUNITY IT WOULD PRESENT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER HERE. SHARAF UNDERSTANDS THAT WHAT I GAVE HIM WAS PURELY A PERSONAL OPINION. IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS PLEASE LET ME KNOW. MY INTENTION WOULD BE TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE KING SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE, PROBABLY AFTER THE ATHERTON VISIT WHEN THERE IS MORE TIME FOR SUCH MATTERS. IF THE QUESTION IS ON SHARAF'S MIND IT WILL MOST CERTAINLY ALSO BE ON KING'S.

5. PLEASE REPEAT TO JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE FOR ATHERTON.
PICKERING UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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